

The Power of God – Pt 1

Ephesians 1

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1. Christ followers often experience a confusion in identity. Born into a fallen world, we mimic the ways of the world. When we put our faith in Jesus, we are given a new identity, but we don't always see it that way.
2. In this passage, Jesus has recently been at a dinner party held in His honor. Previously, many had witnessed Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead and now the festival crowds want to see them both. Messianic hopes are running high and the attendance at the annual Passover celebration is massive, even by today's standards.
3. As Jesus descends from a hill down into Jerusalem, the people begin to lay down their coats and palm branches on the road, an act reserved for royalty.
4. The people begin praising saying, "Hosanna to the *Son of David...*" This title is acclaiming Jesus as King and the Messiah. This creates a problem because Caesar is the king. The Pharisees believe that Jesus should fit their personal agenda, so they are infuriated that Jesus is being praised as if He has the power of God.
5. The statement "the stones will cry out" reflects the praise and honor that Jesus is due. God's power is far beyond any expression of words.
6. Because we believe in Jesus, we have an anchor for our identity, the power of God's protection, and the assurance of His promises.
7. God's nature is to meet our needs even before we ask. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, which comes the moment we trust Jesus is an example of this. The Holy Spirit seals us and affirms God's title over us.
8. Our lives are anchored in the Power of the Living God. He is Sovereign even when our emotions tell us otherwise.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Megethos (meg'-eth-os) [from megas]; strong *magnitude*

Hyperballō (hoop-er-bal'-lo) -to *throw beyond* the usual mark, to *surpass* :- exceeding, excel

Sphragizo (sfrag-id'-zo); to stamp (with a signet) for security or preservation; by implication, to keep, to attest: — (set a) seal

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Praise
Hosanna
Holy Forever
So Will I (100 Billion X)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Solomon calls everything “vanity” (Hebel) – like a vapor.

- What are some things in your life that may feel important now, but ultimately won't last?
- How does this realization affect your priorities?

Solomon had everything (wealth, wisdom, pleasure, power), yet still felt empty.

- Why do you think worldly success often fails to satisfy the deepest parts of our soul?

Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, “There is nothing new under the sun.”

- In what ways do you see that truth reflected as you look through human history?
- How does God's “new work” through Jesus challenge that idea?

Solomon eventually lands on the conclusion: “Fear God and keep His commandments” (Eccl. 12:13)

- What does it mean to “fear God” in a healthy, biblical way?

Think about a moment when something you once deeply valued turned out to be empty or unsatisfying.

- What shifted your perspective?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

- What changes have you noticed in your thinking, desires, or outlook since following Christ?
- Are there things that God is bringing to your mind to let go of in order to follow Him more fully?

Reflection: Am I building my life on what lasts?

Ecclesiastes teaches us to live with eternity in mind. Consider how your daily choices in work, relationships, and personal goals reflect eternal values rather than temporary ones.

Application: Write down one tangible way you can prioritize God's purposes in your everyday life – whether that's being more present with loved ones, simplifying your schedule, or deepening your walk with Jesus.